

PRESS RELEASE: Centertown's East Depot Street to Showcase Local Arts at CenterFest

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ATTACHEMENTS: Several artists who will be participating in Centerfest (Sue Wachob, Hearthside Quilts; Mosaic Making, Bower Center for the Arts; Beulah Witt, Old Jail Hill Art Space)

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The Electric Company, Artists on Depot, Hearthside Quilts, Goose Creek Studio, Old Jail Hill Artists, Artisan Café and the Bower Center for the Arts have teamed up to create a unique arts experience for this year's CenterFest. East Depot Street will be filled with music, art demonstrations and hands-on activities for kids of all ages. "We wanted to showcase the local talent that is part of Centertown's arts community year around in Bedford," says Edrie Bays from her art studio in the old Bedford Electric Company building. "The East Depot Street art experience will be more than just a marketplace for art. We think that CenterFest is a great opportunity to introduce folks to the wonders of the art making process," adds Dotti Stone a teacher and artist-in-residence at the Bower Center. Many of the local artists participating in CenterFest's East Depot Street art experience will be part of the Bedford's Artisan Trail that will be established within the coming year.

A dedicated group of volunteers from the Bower Center for the Arts will host interactive activities throughout the day. Linda Keltz and Judy Hylton will lead a workshop in creating bracelets and keychains from 10:00-noon, pottery with Wellyn Sellers and Pat Lester from 12:30-2:30 and mosaics with Dotti Stone and Marjory Milligan from 3:00-5:00

The Electric Company will be in full swing throughout the festival. George and Sue Wacob, owners of Heathside Quilts, will open their studio to demonstrate spinning and quilt making and will have a raffle for a quilt kit. The six artists of Artists on Depot will have their work displayed on the art fence and open their studios and gallery to visitors. The new owners of the Artisan Café, Chris and Jennifer Lantrip will offer a full menu of tasty artisan food.

Lynchburg's Art Box will be on the street with their "Art Bus". The bus is a traveling art supply store offering a wide variety of art supplies and materials. Art Box owners Anne and Raleigh Novak, who have stores in Charlottesville and Lynchburg, have come up with this innovative way to offer art supplies to communities who do not have a local retail shop.

CenterFest's "Art Stage" will be in the sculpture garden of Goose Creek Studio this year and will feature the music of Summer Hogan, Ken and Alli and Paddy Dougherty throughout the day. Goose Creek Studio will also feature over a dozen working local artists demonstrating their art and crafts in

the parking lot. Other local artists will be on the “Art Fence” located on the railing at the police parking spots behind the court house.

“We do not get the mobs of people down on East Depot Street during for the festival that crowd both Bridge and Main Streets during CenterFest. It is a more laid-back atmosphere here on old jail hill, and a great chance to hear some fine music, meet talented local artists and see them at work, and really get into the art making process,” say Patrick Ellis, co-owner of Goose Creek Studio.